

## ANALYZING SOURCES: VIEWS OF TWO BRITONS

Mr. Jenkins

History 9

“Shaping a New Nation”

Directions: Excerpts from writings of two observers of the American scene in the 1780s appear below. Read them and answer the questions.

Josiah Tucker, Dean of Gloucester, 1781

As to the future Grandeur of *America*, and its being a rising Empire, under *one head*...it is one of the idlest, and most visionary Notions, that ever was conceived even by Writers of Romance. For there is nothing in the Genius of the People, the Situation of their Country, or the Nature of their different Climates, which tends to Countenance [uphold] such a Supposition. On the contrary, every Prognostic [prophesy] that can be formed from a Contemplation of their mutual Antipathies, and clashing Interests, their Difference of Governments, Habitudes, and Manners, - plainly indicates, that the *Americans* will have *no Center of Union* among them, and no *Common Interest* to pursue.... Moreover, when the Intersections and Divisions of their Country by great Bays of the Seas, and by vast Rivers, Lakes, and Ridges of Mountains;- and ...those immense inland Regions...are taken into Account, they form the highest Probability that the *Americans* never can be united into one compact Empire, under any Species of Government whatever.

Reverend Richard Price, London, 1785

With heartfelt satisfaction, I see the revolution in favor of universal liberty which has taken place in *America*;- a revolution which opens a new prospect in human affairs, and begins a new era in the history of mankind;- a revolution by which *Britons* themselves will be the greatest gainers, if wise enough to improve properly the check that has been given to the despotism of their ministers, and to catch the flame of virtuous liberty which has saved their American bretheren....

1. What was the opinion of Josiah Tucker about the future of the United States?
2. What arguments did Tucker give to support his opinion?
3. Why might a person in England in 1781 have seen the United States as a hodgepodge of interests?
4. What effects did Richard Price hope the United States revolution would have on Britons?
5. What clue did Price give of his opinion of his own government?